

ABSTRACT

A multimedia electronic mail system includes a multimedia data server, which stores multimedia data to transmit according to a request; a sending client having a mailer, 5 which registers the multimedia data to the multimedia data server and indicates the identifiers of the multimedia data to a plurality of clients using an electronic mail; and a plurality of receiving clients, each of which has a mailer for receiving the electronic mail transmitted from the 10 sending client, and obtains the multimedia data stored in the multimedia data server through a network. The multimedia data server includes retention period information on the multimedia data, and reference client information consists of identifiers of entire receiving 15 clients which may possibly refer to the multimedia data, to control to delete the multimedia data according to the retention period information and the reference client information.